By the King.

A Proclamation againſt Pirats.

THe Kings Maieſtie, hauing bene informed through the manifolde complaints made to his Highneſſe by his owne Subiects as others, of the many depredations and Piracies committed by lewd and ill diſpoſed perſons, accuſtomed and habituated to ſpoile and rapine, inſenſible and deſperate of the peril they draw vpon themſelues, and the imputation they caſt vpon the honour of their Soueraigne ſo pretious to him, as for redreſſe thereof he is inforced to reiterate and inculcate his loathing and deteſtation not onely of the crimes, but alſo to manifeſt to the world his ſincerity and exceeding deſires for the due & ſpeedy ſuppreſſing of the delinquents; And hauing lately found by many pregnant circumſtances, that moſt of theſe great faults are continued by the conniuence, or corruption in many the ſubordinate Officers, eſpecially ſuch as are reſident in and neere the Ports and Maritime Counties: In his Princely care to preſerue Iuſtice, as one of the maine pillars of his Eſtate, & for the ſpeedy preuention of ſuch fowle crimes, & the ſeuere puniſhment and extirpation of ſuch enormious offendors (moſt hatefull to his minde, and ſcandalous to his peaceable gouernment) and for the preſeruation & continuance of amitie and good correſpondencie with all other Princes and States, hath with the aduiſe of his Counſaile thought it neceſſary at this preſent, to publiſh theſe Articles & Ordinances inſuing: Wherein if any ſhall be found culpable, refractory, or contemptuous, his Maieſtie is reſolued and hereby declareth, that ſuch puniſhment ſhalbe inflicted on him or them ſo offending, that others may be exemplarily forewarned, from committing ſo odious factes, and be deterred from ayding, relieuing, comforting, or abetting ſuch and ſo enormious malefactors.

IF any perſon whatſoeuer ſhall vpon the Seas, or in any Port or hauen, take any Ship that doth belong to any of his Maieſties Subiects, friends, or Allies, or ſhall take out of it by force, any goods of what nature or qualitie ſoeuer: he or they ſo offending ſhall ſuffer death, with confiſcation of lands and goods, according to the Law in that caſe prouided.

IF any perſon or perſons ſo offending, do at any time hereafter come into any Port or place of his Maieſties dominions, his Maieſtie expreſly chargeth all his Officers forthwith to apprehend him and them, and to commit them to priſon, without Baile or Mainprize, and that the name of the perſon and cauſe of his impriſonment, be forthwith certified into the Admiraltie, that ſpeedy order may be taken for further proceeding, and execution according to Law, and the contents of his Maieſties former Proclamations.

ALl his Maieſties Subiects ſhall forbeare from furniſhing, Victualing, ayding, receiuing, relieuing, comforting or abetting, any Pirate or Sea-rouer, or any perſon not being a knowen Merchant, by contracting, buying, ſelling, bartring or exchanging with him or them, vpon peril of his Maieſties heauy indignation, and the grieuous paines by Law belonging to the ſame.

ALl Admirall cauſes ſhalbe ſummarily heard by the Iudge of the Admiraltie without admitting any vnneceſſary delay, and no Appeale from him ſhalbe allowed to the defendant or defendants in caſes of depredations or ſpoyle, either for the Offenders, or their acceſſaries before or after the offence commited, or thoſe in whoſe poſſeſſion the goods ſpoyled are found, vnleſſe firſt by way of prouiſion the ſumme adiudged be payd to the plaintife vpon Suerties to repay it, if the Sentence ſhalbe reuerſed. And no Prohibition in ſuch cauſes of depredation and ſpoyle, and their acceſſories and dependants ſhalbe hereafter granted againſt the Admiraltie.

NO Ship or goods taken from any his Maieſties friends, ſhalbe deliuered vpon any other order, then vpon proofe made, or certificate exhibited in the ſaid Court of the Admiraltie, to the end that a Record may be kept of all ſuch reſtitutions made to ſtrangers, to ſerue if occaſion ſhall require.

By the King.

A Proclamation against Pirats.

And for the preuenting of future mischiefes, euery Viceadmirall is inioyned by this Proclamation (whereof he is to take notice at his peril) to certifie into the said Court of the Admiralty euery quarter of the yere, what Ship or Ships warlikely appointed, hath gone to the Sea, or returned within that time with any goods taken at Sea, or the procedue thereof, vpon paine to lose to his Maiestie (by way of Fine) for euery such default, forty pound of currant money of England, to be answerable into his Maiesties receipt of the Exchequer, by certificate from the said Iudge of the Admiralty, vnder the great Seale of that Office, to be directed to the L. Treasourer, and the Barons of the Exchequer.

The Viceadmirals, Customers, and other Officers of the Ports, shall not suffer any Ship to goe to Sea, before such time as they respectiuely in their seuerall Ports, haue duely searched and visited the same, to the intent to stay such as apparantly shalbe furnished for the warres, and not for merchandizing or fishing. And if there shalbe cause of suspition by the prouisions, or furniture, or extraordinary number of men, or suspected persons therein, that the said Ship and company is otherwise to be imployed then in Merchandize or Fishing; then in such case of suspition, the Viceadmirals & Officers of the Ports, shal stay and in no wise suffer the said Ship to passe to Seas, without good Bonds with sufficient Sueties had in the double value of the Shippe, and her furniture, to vse nothing during their saide Voyage, but lawfull trade of Merchandize or Fishing. And if they shall suffer any such persons otherwise to repaire to the Seas then is aboue mentioned, they shall suffer imprisonment vntil the offenders may be apprehended, and shall be answerable to the parties grieued, for their contempt and offence in this behalfe committed.

And whereas diuers great and enormious spoyles and Piracies haue bene heretofore committed within the Straits of Giblatar and other places by Captaine Iohn Ward and his adherents, and other English Pirats, and the goods, moneys and Merchandizes haue bene and are sold, dispersed & disposed of, most lewdly and prodigally by the meanes of their receiuers, comfortors & abettors, to the great preiudice of his Maiesties good friends the Venetians, and others in league and amitie with his Maiestie, whom they haue so robbed and spoyled: His Maiestie doth hereby expresly charge and commaund all Lieutenants, deputy Lieutenants, Viceadmirals and their Deputies, Iustices of Peace, Captaines of his Maiesties Ships, and all other Officers of the Admiraltie, and all Maiors, Shiriffes, Bailifes, Constables, and other his Officers whatsoeuer, as they and euery of them tender his Maiesties seruice, and vpon perill of his Maiesties indignation, to vse all care and diligence, and their best and vttermost indeuors, in the inquiring, searching for, and apprehending of all such Pirats, their receiuors, comfortors and abettors. And if they shall by their trauailes and care finde any of them, to send them presently to the next common Goaile, there to remaine without Baile or Mainprize, till the Lord high Admirall of England, or his Lieutenant the Iudge of the Admiraltie may be aduertized thereof, and shall dispose of them according to the Lawes in that case prouided.

Lastly, forasmuch as his Maiestie is aduertized that this Pirate Ward and others, are made the more able to continue in strength and power, to infest the Subiects of all Christian Princes and Estates, by meanes of that receipt and protection which is giuen them in Tunis, Argiers, and the places adioyning, his Maiesty doeth hereby straitly prohibite all his Subiects whatsoeuer that shall goe to Sea, that they nor any of them, shall sell, alien, barter, or exchange any Ordinance, powder, corage, or any prouision whatsoeuer, seruiceable for the warre or shipping, directly or indirectly, to or with the said Ward, or his adherents, or any other Pirate or Pirates whatsoeuer, vnder paine of death as accessaries in cases of Piracie. Neither shall any of his Maiesties Subiects, residing for the time in Tunis, Argiers, or in any other place in Barbary, or the places adioyning, or hereafter resorting thither, dare to buy, barter, exchange, or receiue directly or indirectly any goods taken at the Seas, vpon any pretext whatsoeuer, vnder paine of confiscation of his owne proper goods, lands and chattels here in England, and such other punishment as by Law may be inflicted vpon so contemptuous and grieuous an offender.

Giuen at Whitehall the eight day of Ianuary, in the sixt yeere of his Maiesties raigne of great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by the Deputies of Robert *Barker, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.*

Anno Dom. 1608.